

I support a democratic media

To Chairman Powell and his supporters on the FCC;

The corporate owned media already presents an incredibly narrow, politically motivated, view of the world. Further deregulation, would only help to make things worse. The less companies that control the media, the more that national debate is able to be controlled, and diverse and dissenting opinion is marginalized and ignored. Deregulation does nothing but make huge, rich corporations, even bigger and richer, while at the same, making broadcasting (which is supposed to serve the public interest) less and less democratic. I would think the massive loss of diversity in radio ownership that was caused by deregulation of radio in 1996, would be evidence enough that deregulating broadcasting is not good for local broadcasters or for democracy, being that freedom speech means very little if you don't have an audience to hear it.

What upsets me most however, is the fact that most Americans would agree with me, if only they were aware of the issue. Thanks to the undemocratic principles of secrecy and lack of public input, that Mr. Powell seems to hold so dear, as well as the current ability of broadcasters to set the parameters of debate and ignore issues when it's in their own best interest, most the public is unaware of the issue of deregulation at all. I don't understand how, in a democracy, such major regulation can be taking place with almost no public knowledge or input. If you believe at all in democratic principles, I believe you would oppose these new deregulations, but certainly you would at the very least support public input on them.

Sincerely,

Matt Howard (a very concerned citizen)